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TORCHWOOD

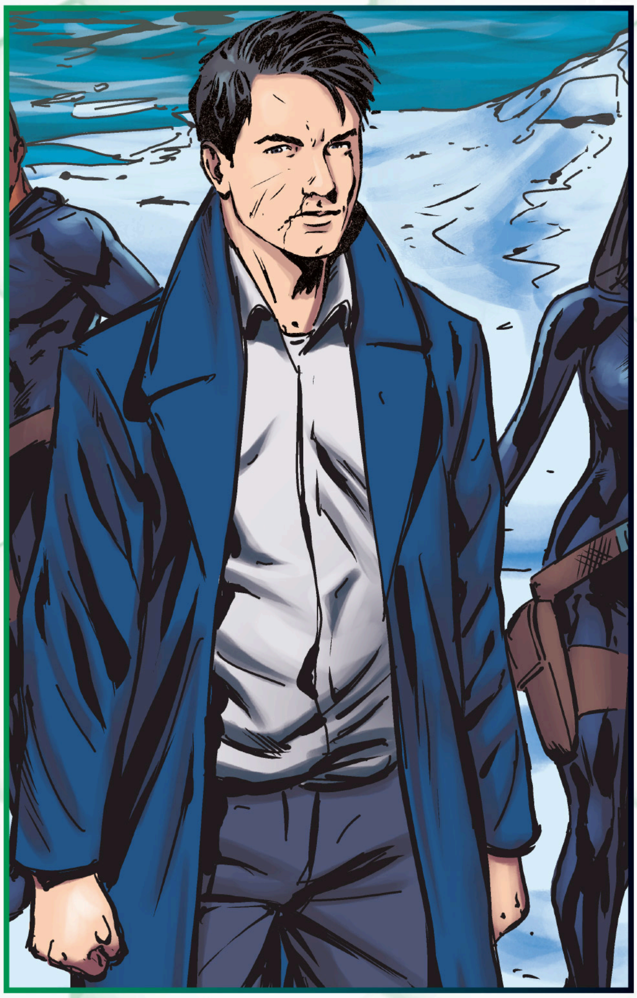
THE CULLING

PREVIOUSLY IN TORCHWOOD

After thwarting the Navigator/ Vervoid plot to take over the world, Jack and Gwen received a nasty surprise from their least-favorite person... Captain John Hart revealed that the Vervoids had created a hybrid creature from both of their DNA! Sladen, their alien 'daughter', is now wreaking havoc across the Antarctic – using her power to speed up the life cycle of anything she touches, with the encouragement of old Vervoid enemy, Docilis. Jack and Gwen must now race to stop her before she destroys the entire planet... but will they be too late?!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

New to this story and want to know who's who? Let us fill you in on the main players among Torchwood's agents and their enemies...



CAPTAIN JACK HARKNESS

Immortal former Time Agent from the 51st Century, and ex-companion of the Doctor. More recently the long-time head of Torchwood Cardiff.

Special thanks to Russell T Davies, James Goss, Scott Handcock, the Big Finish team, Mandy Thwaites, Andrew James, Edward Russell, Derek Ritchie, Kirsty Mullan, Kate Bush, and Ed Casey for their invaluable assistance.

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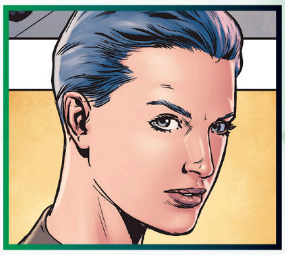
GWEN COOPER

Acting head of Torchwood Cardiff, and former police officer. Married to Rhys Williams, and the mother of Anwen. Drawn back into the world of Torchwood after the attack in the Skagerrak Strait.



SHELLEY

The *Ice Maiden*'s A.I avatar, with a personality based on that of the 19th-Century author Mary Shelley. She keeps the Ice Maiden running, but can be difficult to manage... She is an invaluable asset, even away from the ship.

DANA MACLEISH

The *Ice Maiden*'s captain, and all-round mystery woman. Bearer of a mysterious tattoo on her back. She, along with her ship and crew, are currently away on a mission to help in the planet's recovery.

DOCILIS

Former Time Agent, Docilis was revealed to be the perpetrator of the Navigators' plans to harvest Earth and form a new species. Claims to want to help Sladen.

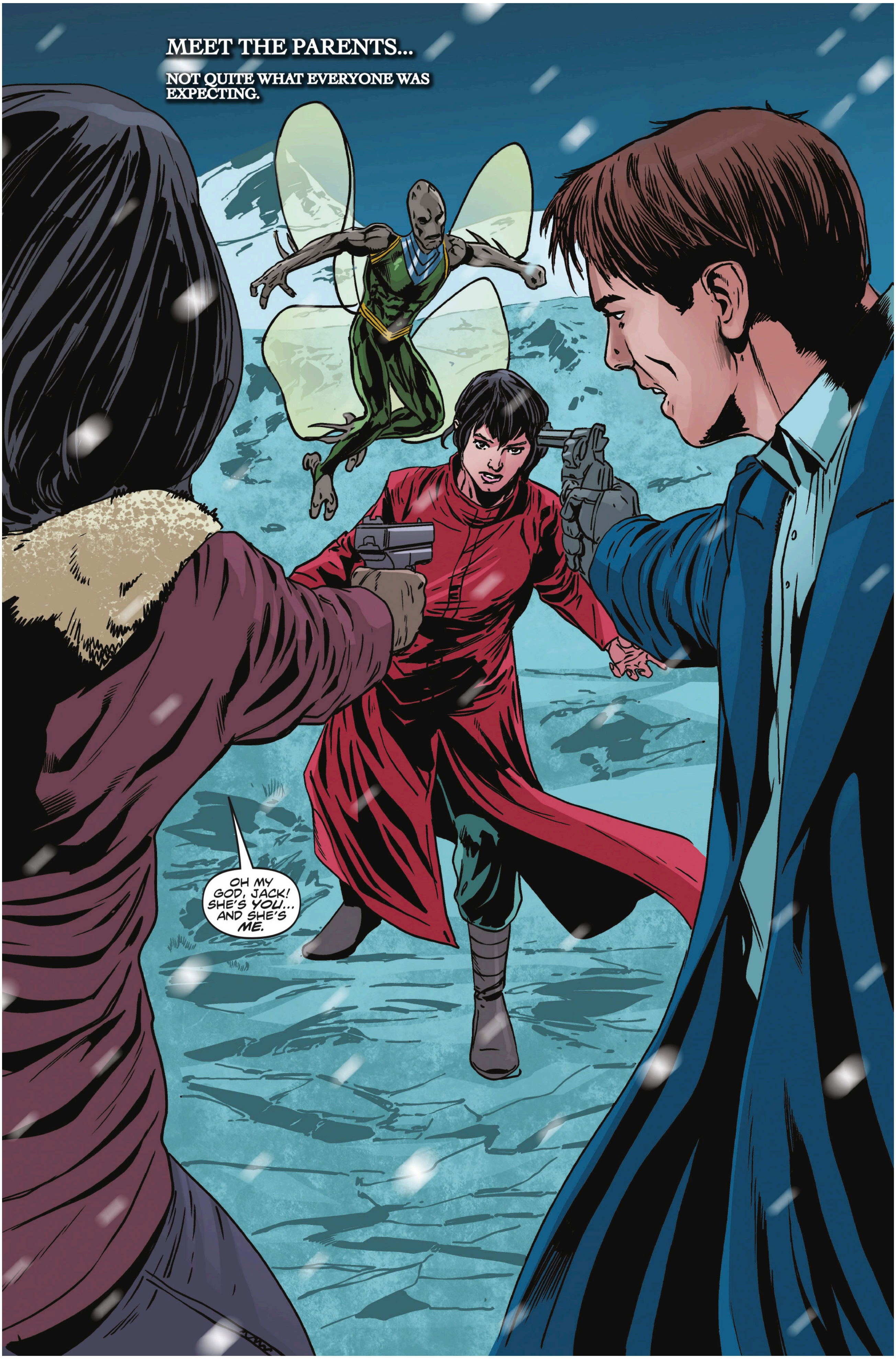
SLADEN

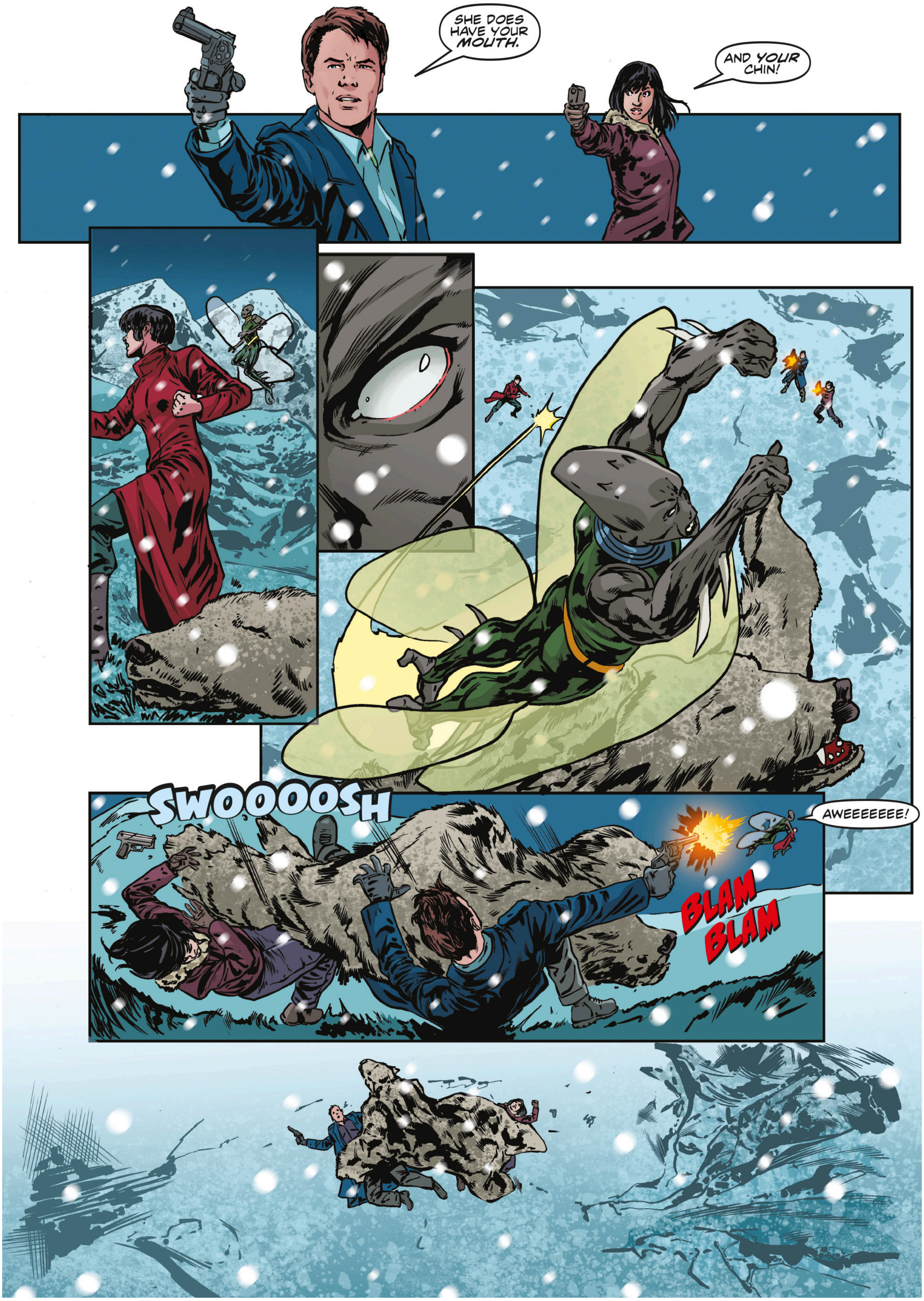
Sladen was born amidst the destruction of Station Zero, and bears an uncanny resemblance to both Jack and Gwen... but who, or what, is she? And what powers does she have?

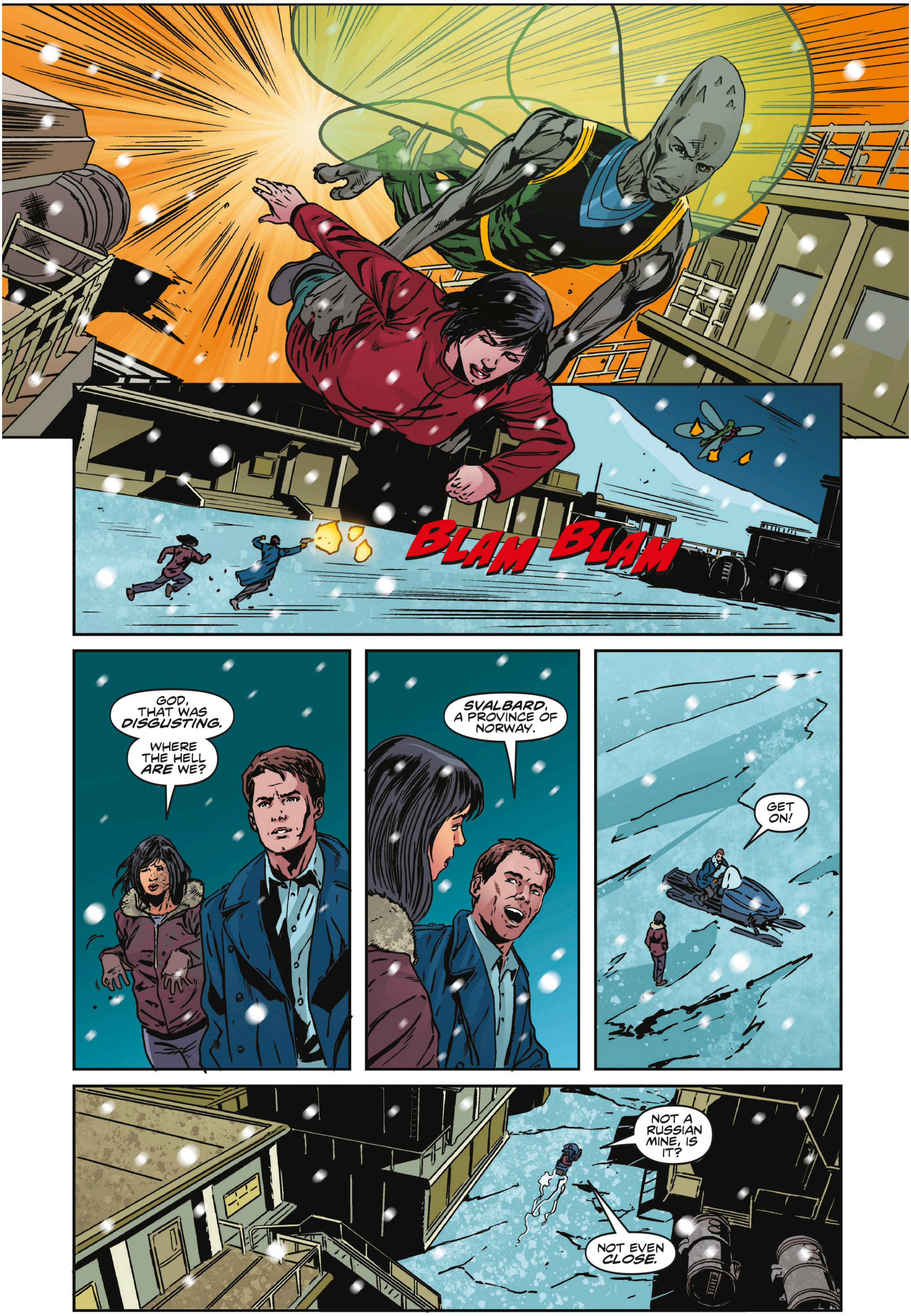
CAPTAIN JOHN HART

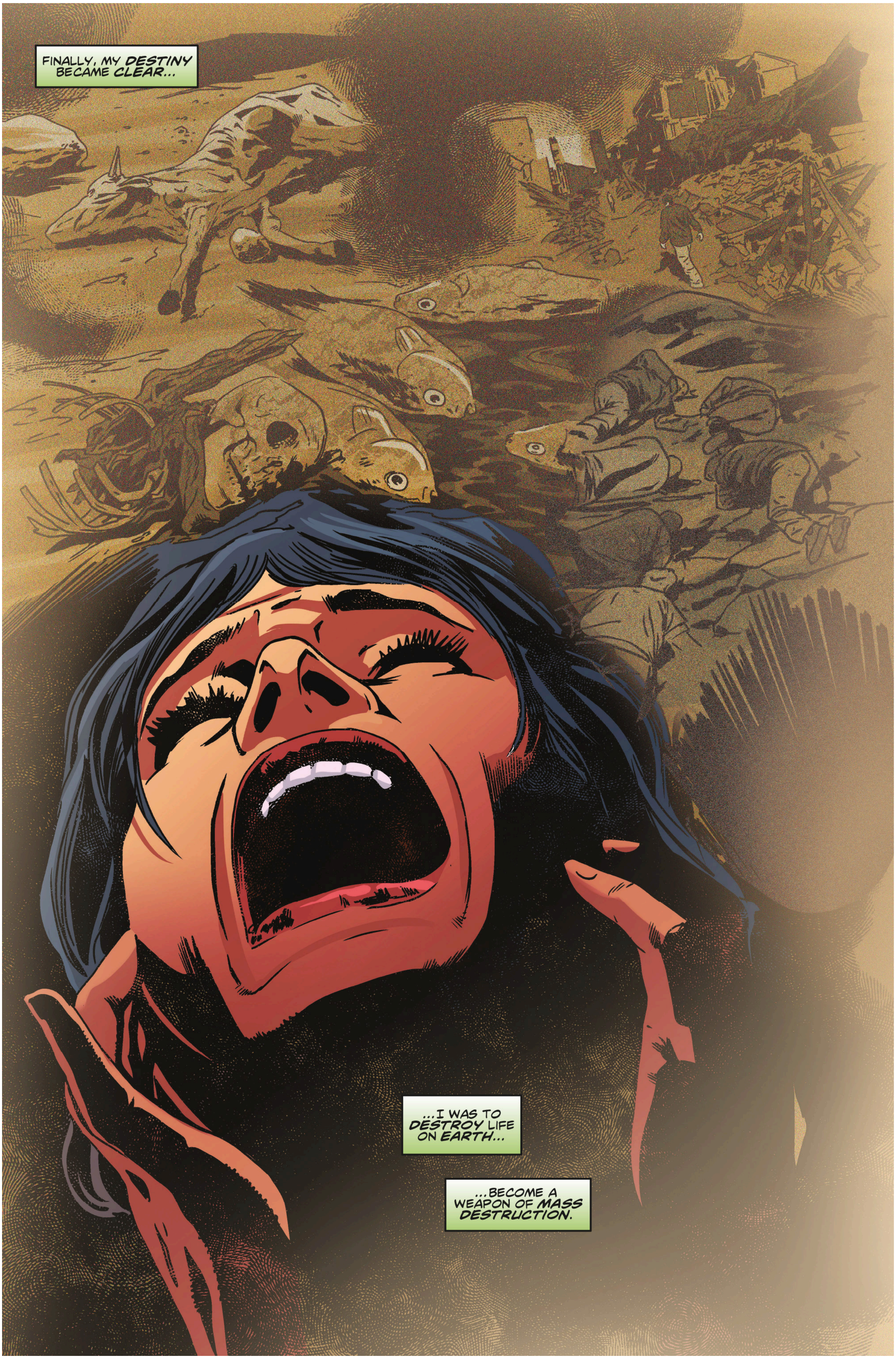
Former Time Agent from the 51st Century turned intergalactic rogue. Ex-lover and Time Agent partner of Captain Jack Harkness. Forever a thorn in Jack's side, his appearances usually bring trouble.

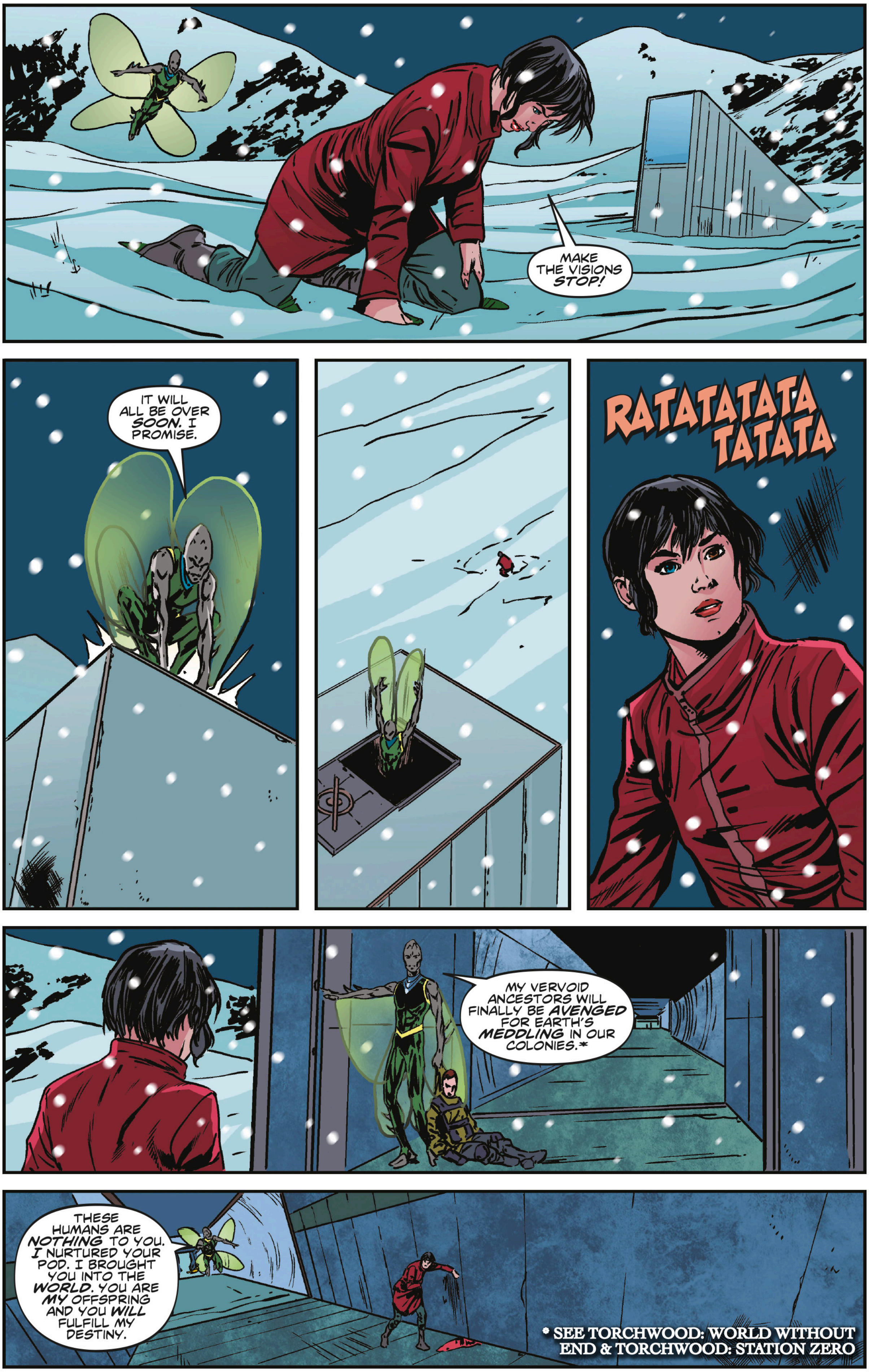
This volume takes place after the *Torchwood* novel 'The Exodus Code' and volume two of the comic series, 'Station Zero.'

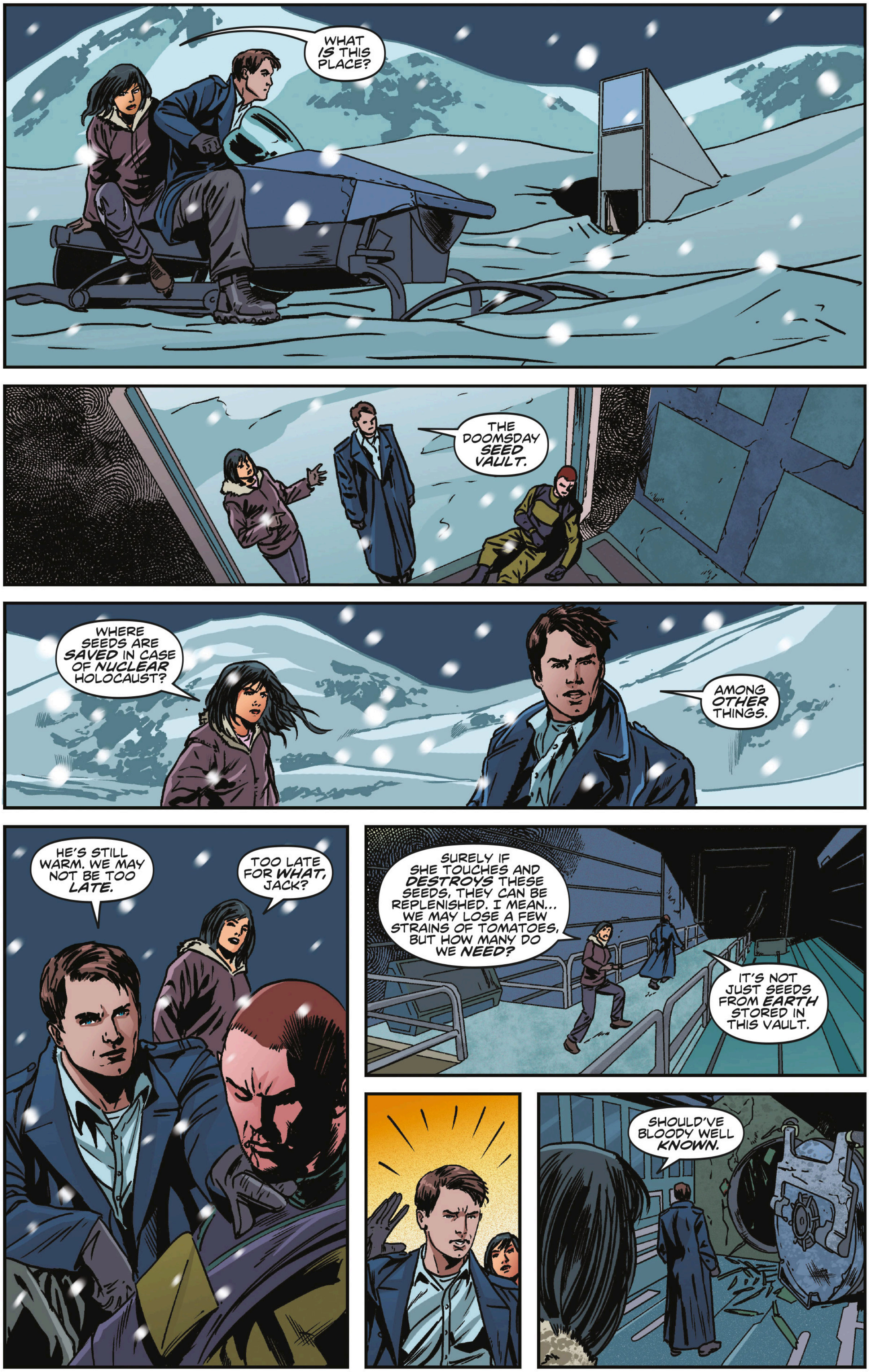

MEET THE PARENTS...
NOT QUITE WHAT EVERYONE WAS EXPECTING.
OH MY GOD, JACK! SHE'S YOU... AND SHE'S ME.

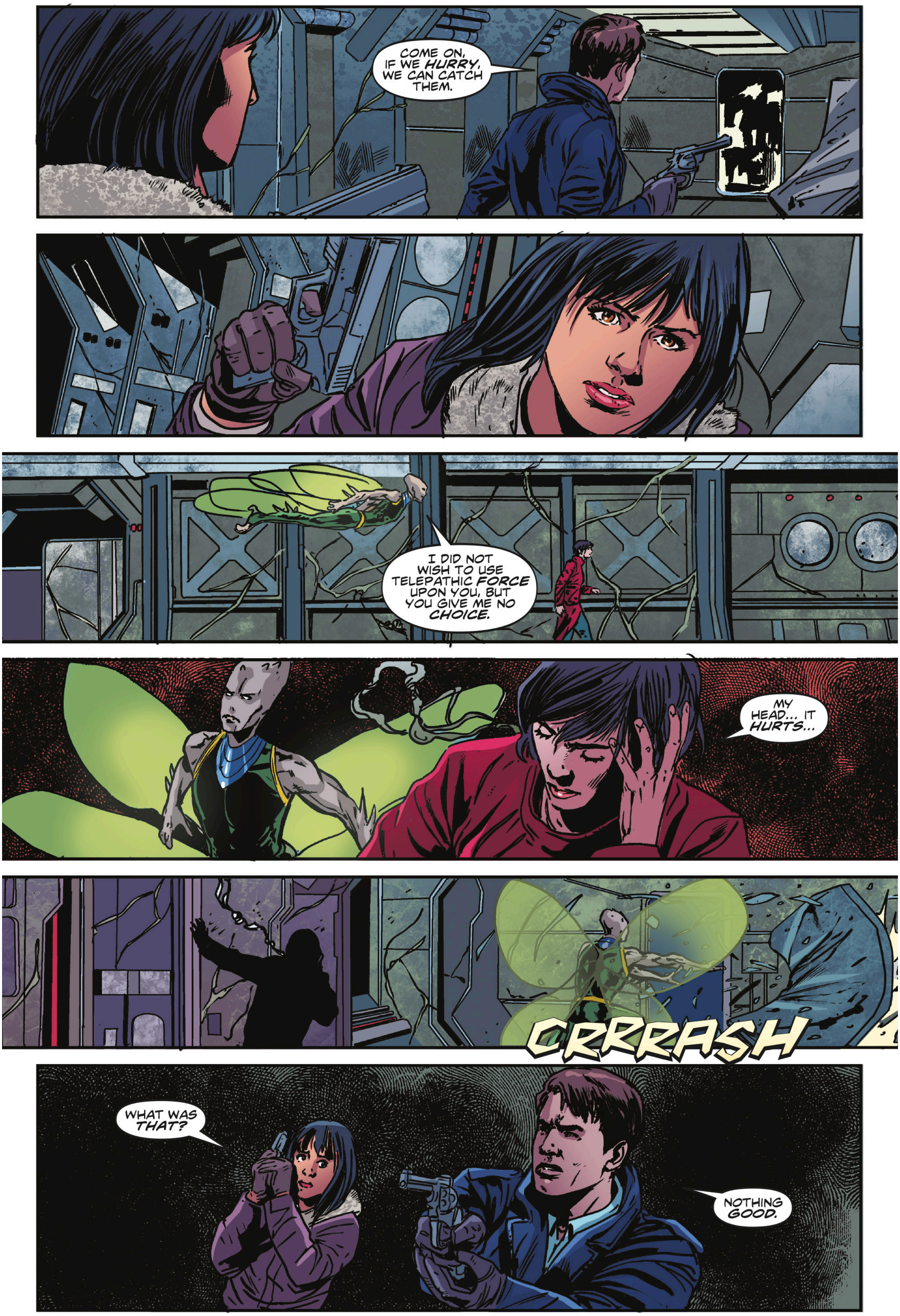

SHE DOES HAVE YOUR MOUTH.
AND YOUR CHIN!
SWOOOOOSH
AWEEEEEEEE!
BLAM
BLAM

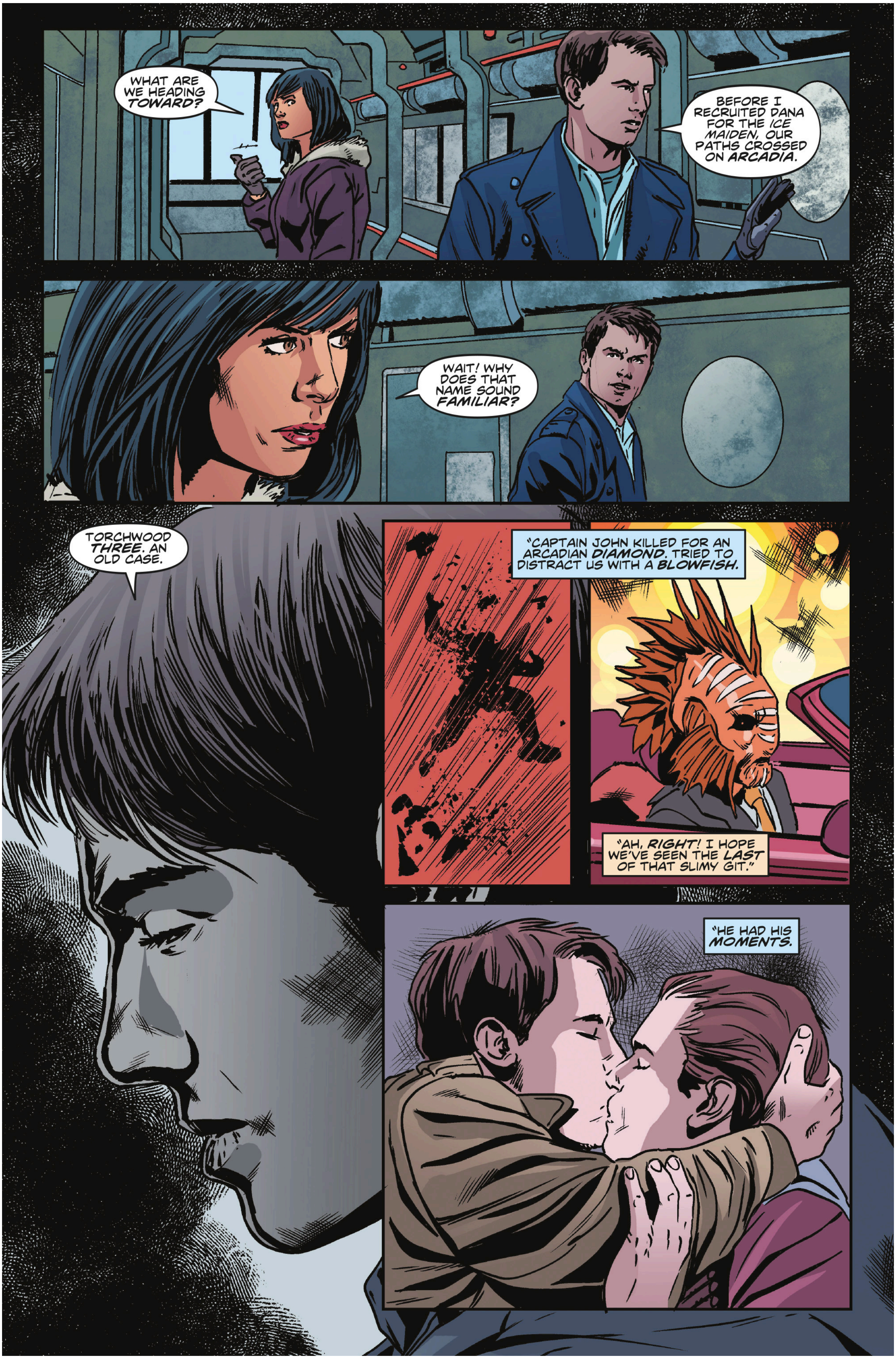

BLAM BLAM
GOD, THAT WAS DISGUSTING.
WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?
SVALBARD, A PROVINCE OF NORWAY.
GET ON!
NOT A RUSSIAN MINE, IS IT?
NOT EVEN CLOSE.


FINALLY, MY DESTINY BECAME CLEAR...
...I WAS TO DESTROY LIFE ON EARTH...
...BECOME A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.


MAKE THE VISIONS *STOP!*
IT WILL ALL BE OVER *SOON.* I PROMISE.
RATATATATA TATATA
MY VERVOID ANCESTORS WILL FINALLY BE *AVENGED* FOR EARTH'S *MEDDLING* IN OUR COLONIES.*
THESE HUMANS ARE *NOTHING* TO YOU. *I* NURTURED YOUR POD. I BROUGHT YOU INTO THE *WORLD*. YOU ARE *MY* OFFSPRING AND YOU *WILL* FULFILL MY DESTINY.
* SEE TORCHWOOD: WORLD WITHOUT END & TORCHWOOD: STATION ZERO


WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?
THE DOOMSDAY *SEED VAULT.*
WHERE SEEDS ARE *SAVED* IN CASE OF *NUCLEAR* HOLOCAUST?
AMONG *OTHER* THINGS.
HE'S STILL WARM. WE MAY NOT BE TOO *LATE.*
TOO LATE FOR *WHAT*, JACK?
SURELY IF SHE TOUCHES AND *DESTROYS* THESE SEEDS, THEY CAN BE REPLENISHED. I MEAN... WE MAY LOSE A FEW STRAINS OF TOMATOES, BUT HOW MANY DO WE *NEED?*
IT'S NOT JUST SEEDS FROM *EARTH* STORED IN THIS VAULT.
SHOULD'VE BLOODY WELL *KNOWN.*


COME ON, IF WE *HURRY*, WE CAN CATCH THEM.
I DID NOT WISH TO USE TELEPATHIC *FORCE* UPON YOU, BUT YOU GIVE ME NO *CHOICE*.
MY HEAD... IT *HURTS*...
CRRRASH
WHAT WAS *THAT?*
NOTHING *GOOD*.


WHAT ARE WE HEADING TOWARD?
BEFORE I RECRUITED DANA FOR THE ICE MAIDEN, OUR PATHS CROSSED ON ARCADIA.
WAIT! WHY DOES THAT NAME SOUND FAMILIAR?
TORCHWOOD THREE. AN OLD CASE.
"CAPTAIN JOHN KILLED FOR AN ARCADIAN DIAMOND. TRIED TO DISTRACT US WITH A BLOWFISH.
"AH, RIGHT! I HOPE WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THAT SLIMY GIT."
"HE HAD HIS MOMENTS.

TORCHWOOD

THE CULLING

PART 4

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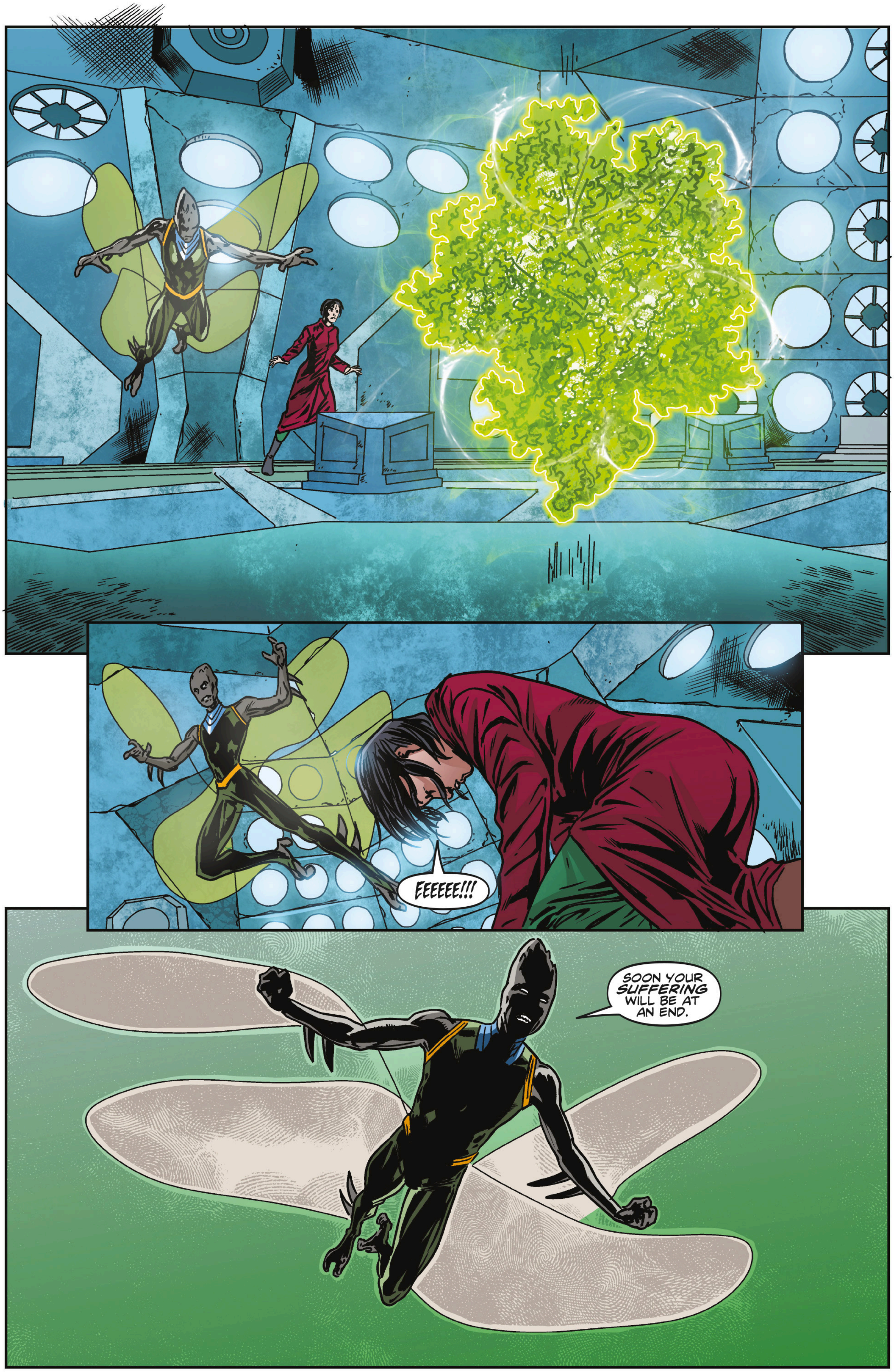
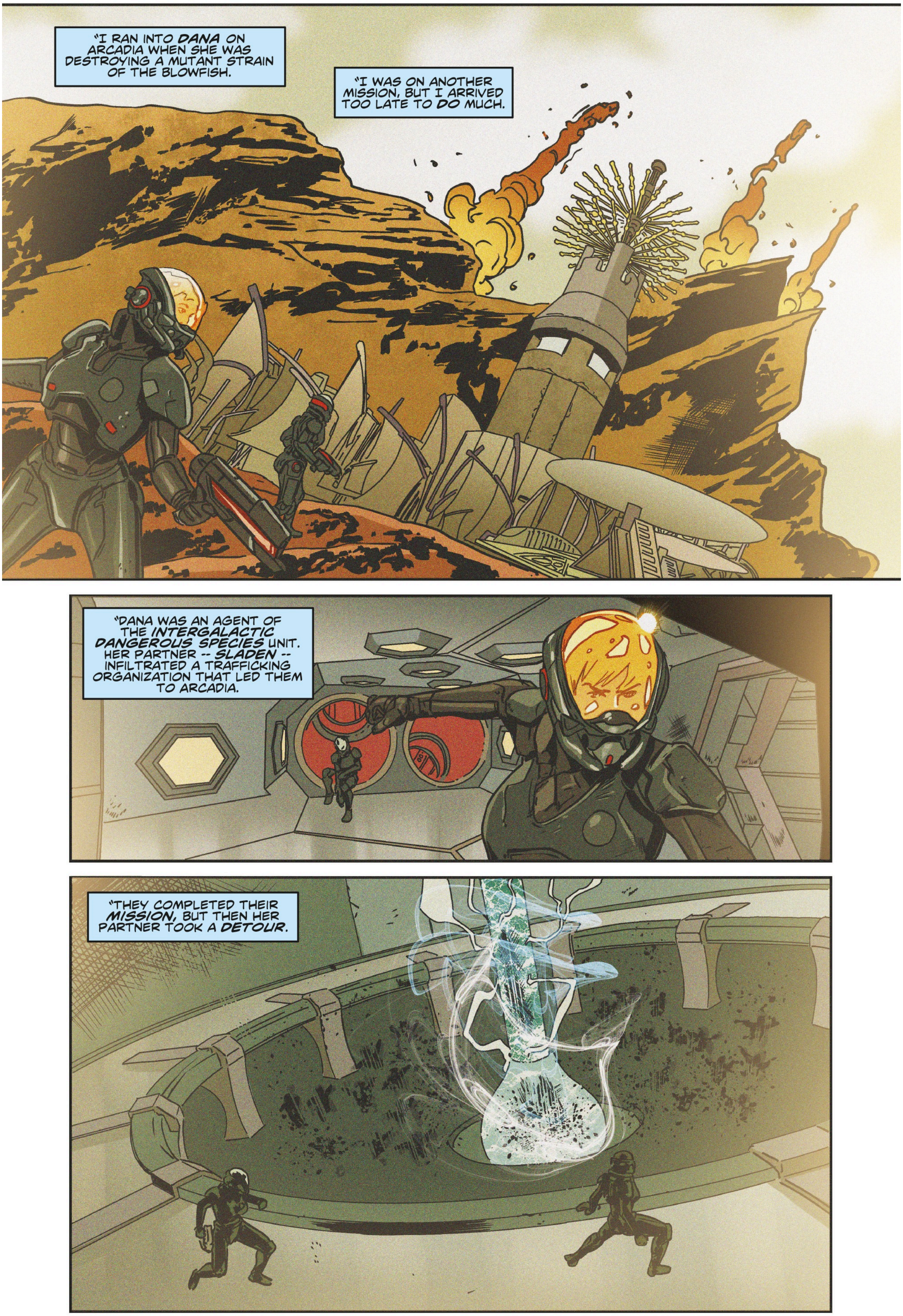

EEEEEE!!!
SOON YOUR SUFFERING WILL BE AT AN END.


"I RAN INTO DANA ON ARCADIA WHEN SHE WAS DESTROYING A MUTANT STRAIN OF THE BLOWFISH.
"I WAS ON ANOTHER MISSION, BUT I ARRIVED TOO LATE TO DO MUCH.
"DANA WAS AN AGENT OF THE INTERGALACTIC DANGEROUS SPECIES UNIT. HER PARTNER -- SLADEN -- INFILTRATED A TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION THAT LED THEM TO ARCADIA.
"THEY COMPLETED THEIR MISSION, BUT THEN HER PARTNER TOOK A DETOUR.

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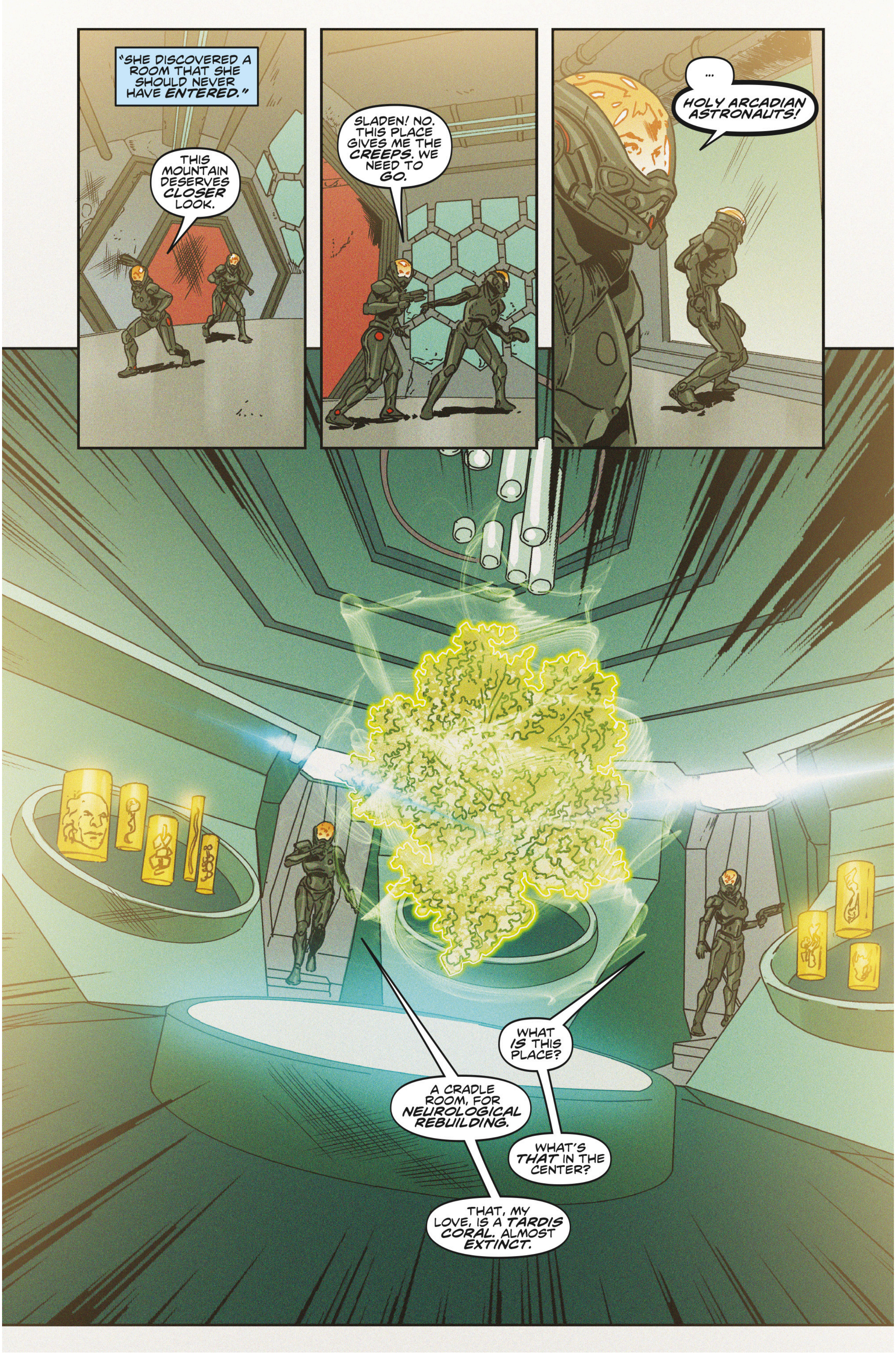
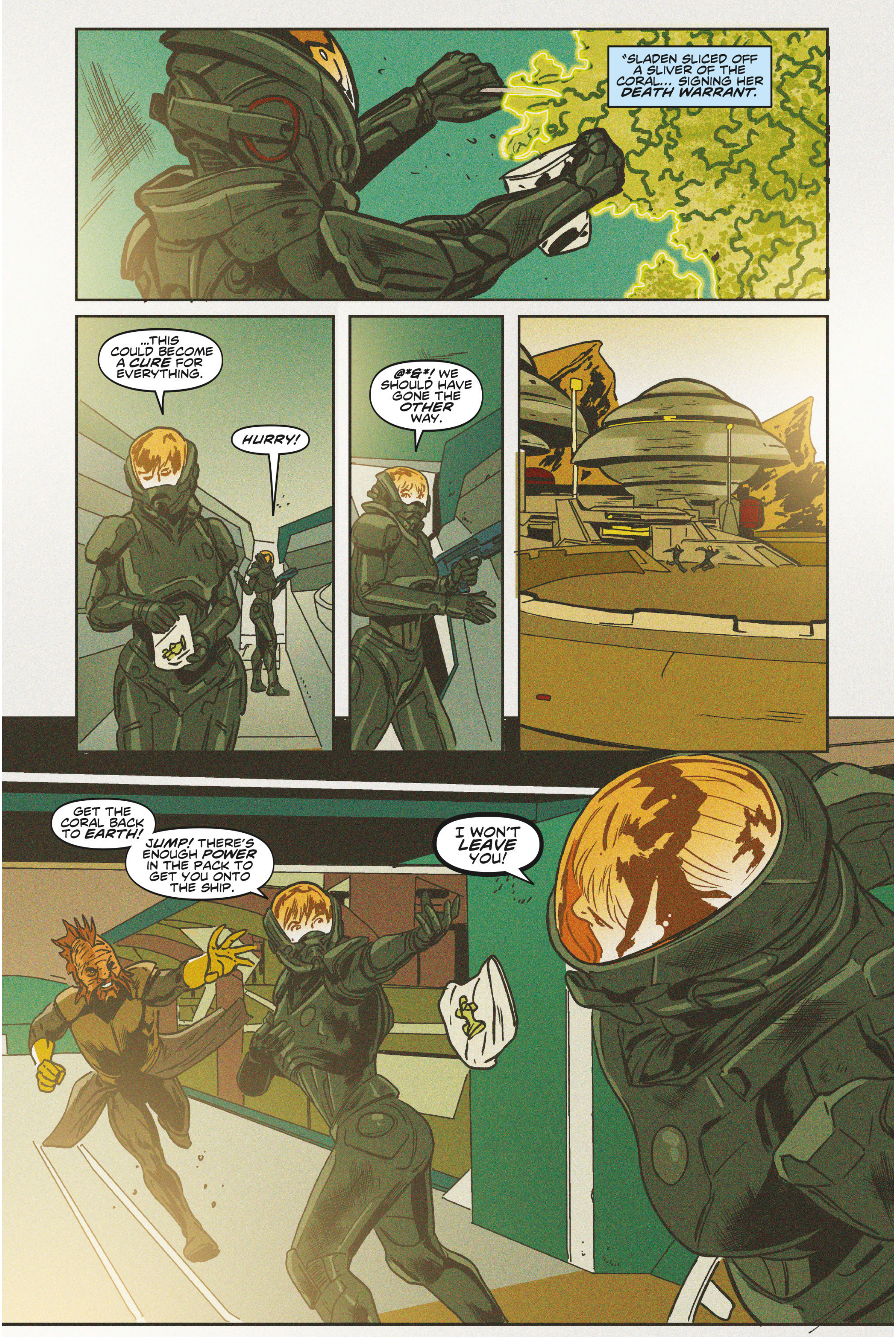
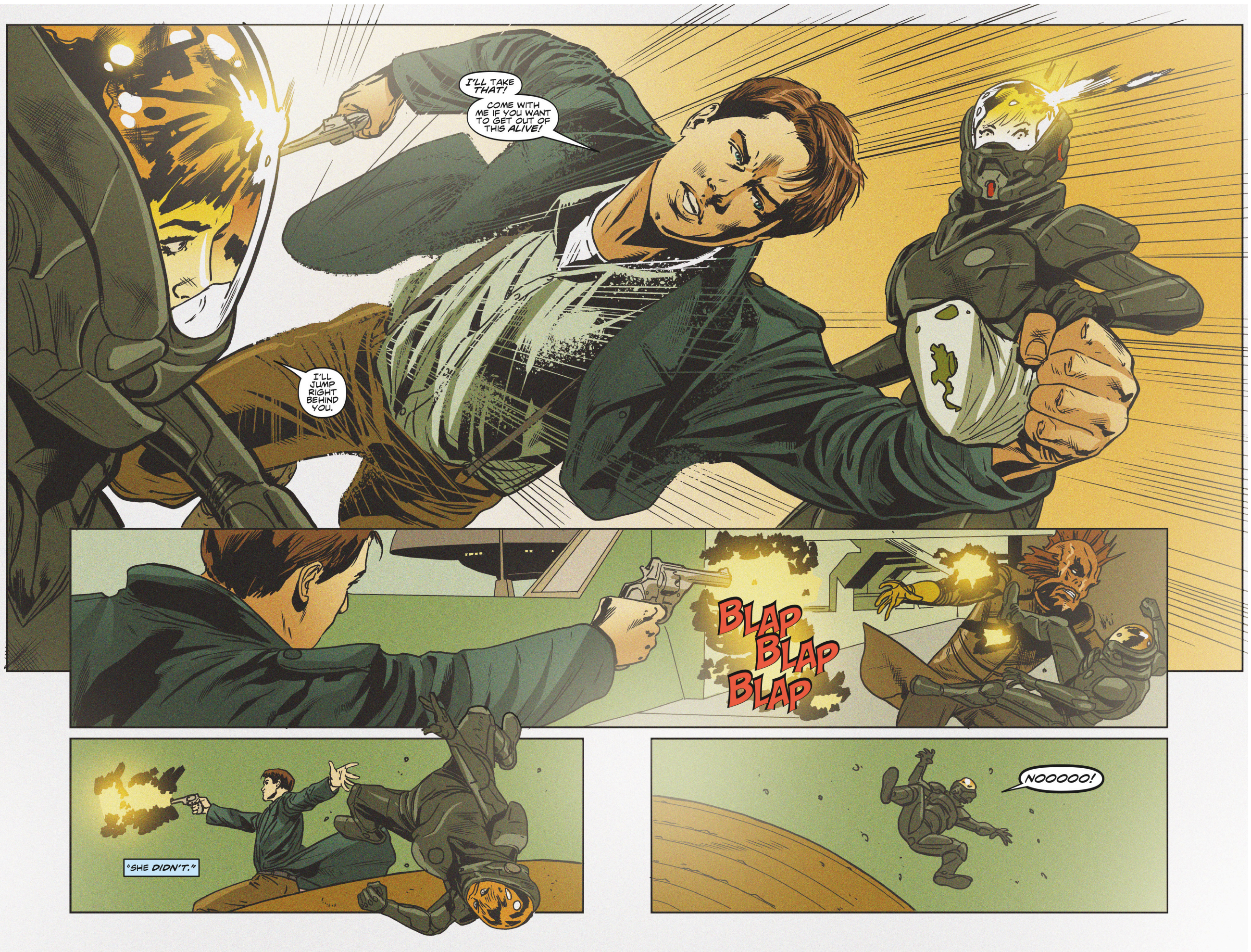
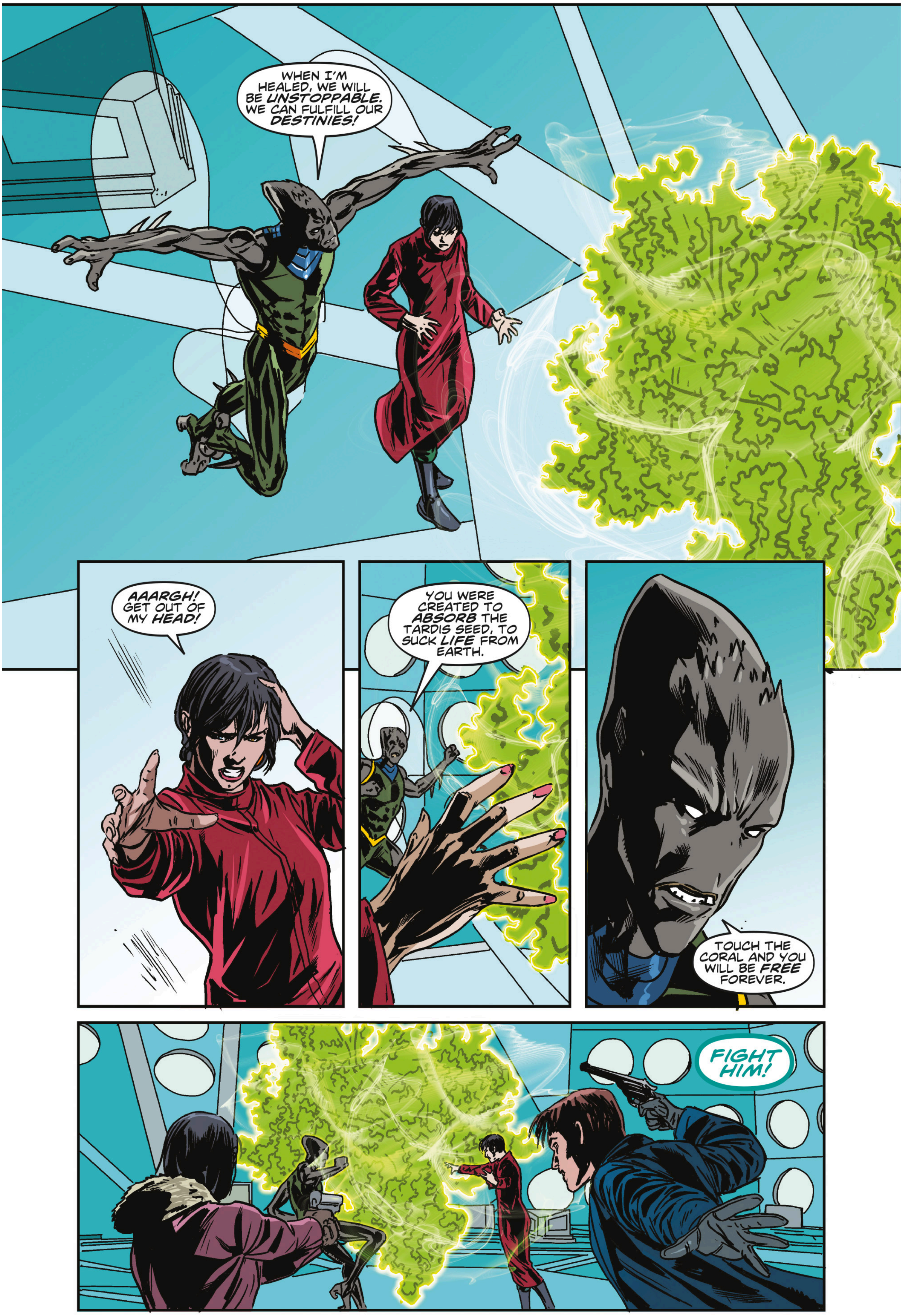
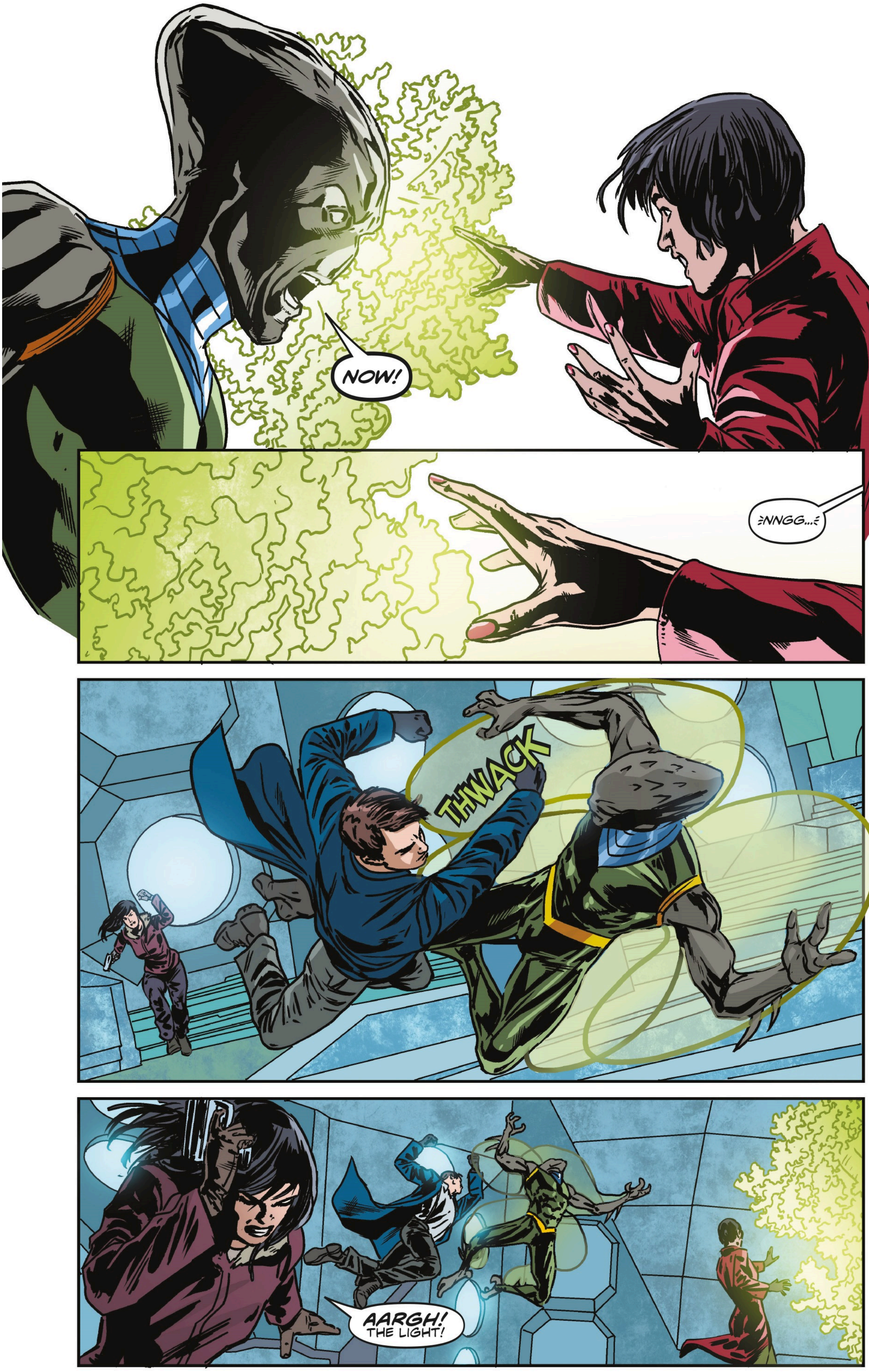

"SHE DISCOVERED A ROOM THAT SHE SHOULD NEVER HAVE *ENTERED.*"
THIS MOUNTAIN DESERVES *CLOSER* LOOK.
SLADEN! NO. THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE *CREEPS*. WE NEED TO *GO*.
...
HOLY ARCADIAN ASTRONAUTS!
WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?
A CRADLE ROOM, FOR *NEUROLOGICAL REBUILDING.*
WHAT'S *THAT* IN THE CENTER?
THAT, MY LOVE, IS A *TARDIS CORAL.* ALMOST *EXTINCT.*


"SLADEN SLICED OFF A SLIVER OF THE CORAL... SIGNING HER *DEATH WARRANT.*
...THIS COULD BECOME A *CURE* FOR EVERYTHING.
HURRY!
@*&*! WE SHOULD HAVE GONE THE *OTHER* WAY.
GET THE CORAL BACK TO *EARTH!*
JUMP! THERE'S ENOUGH *POWER* IN THE PACK TO GET YOU ONTO THE SHIP.
I WON'T *LEAVE* YOU!


I'LL TAKE THAT!
COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
I'LL JUMP RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
BLAP BLAP BLAP
"SHE DIDN'T."
NOOOOO!


WHEN I'M HEALED, WE WILL BE *UNSTOPPABLE.* WE CAN FULFILL OUR *DESTINIES!*
AAARGH! GET OUT OF MY *HEAD!*
YOU WERE CREATED TO *ABSORB* THE TARDIS SEED, TO SUCK *LIFE* FROM EARTH.
TOUCH THE CORAL AND YOU WILL BE *FREE* FOREVER.
FIGHT HIM!


NOW!
NNGG...
THWACK
AARGH! THE LIGHT!

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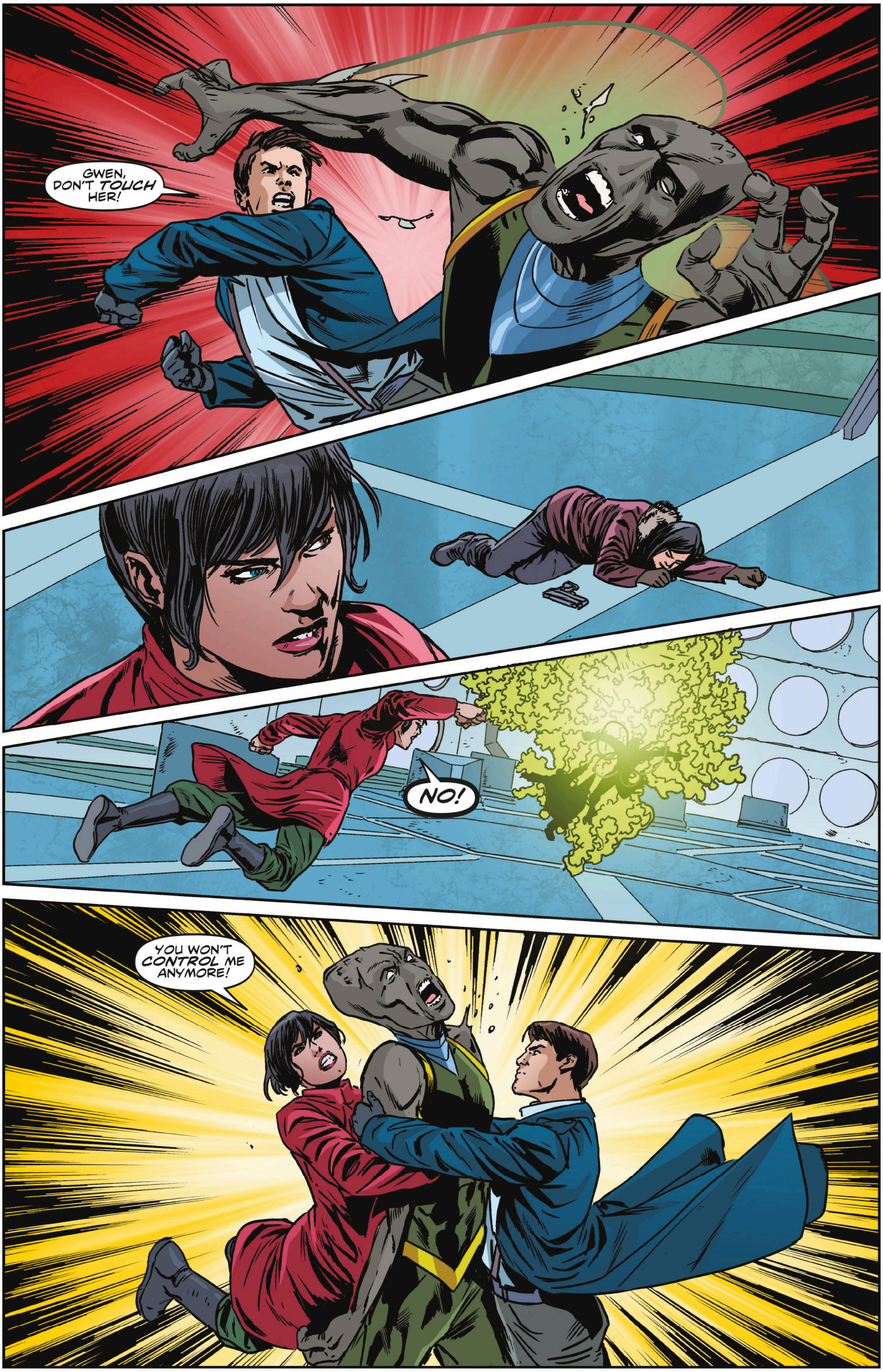
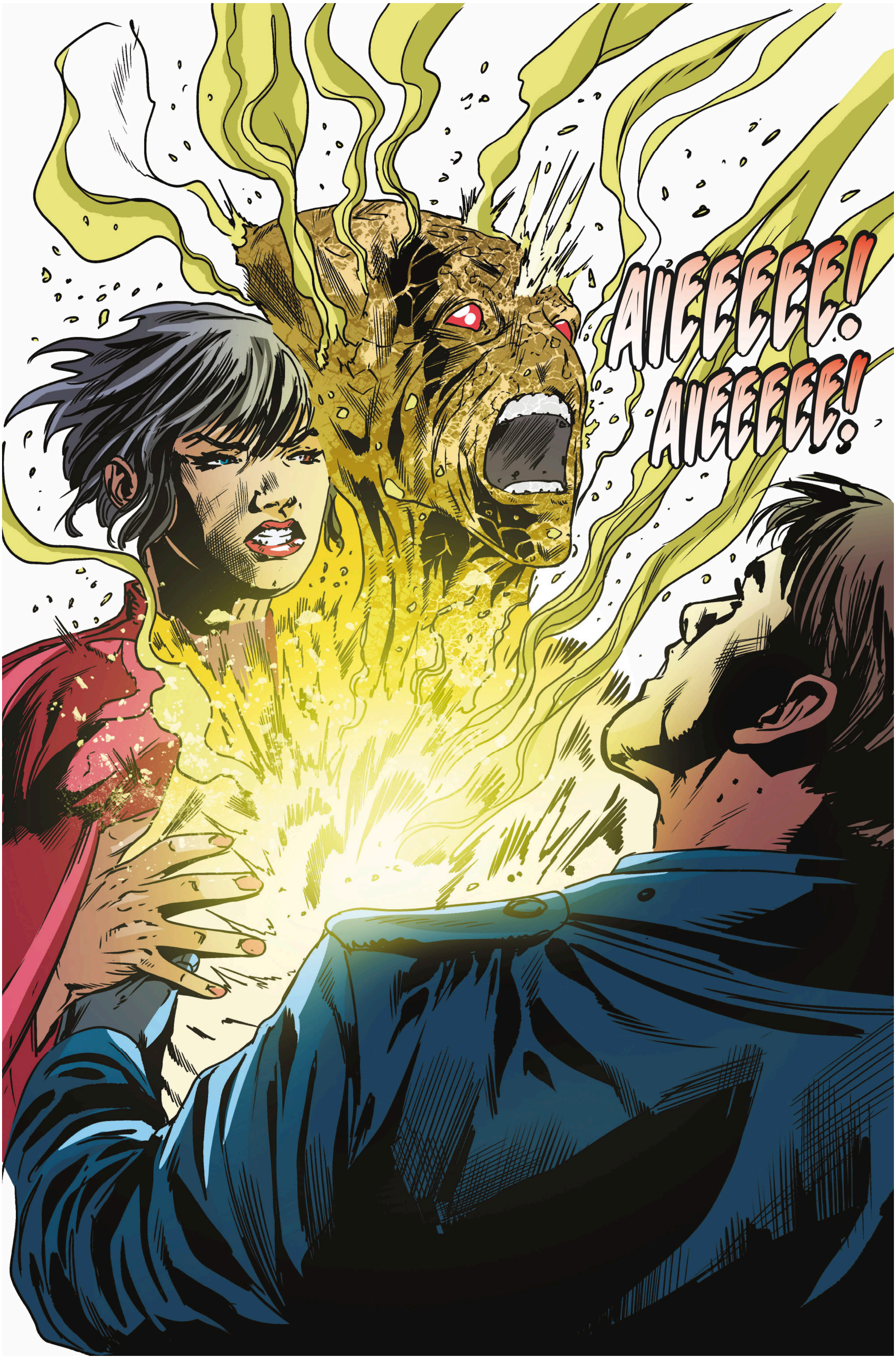
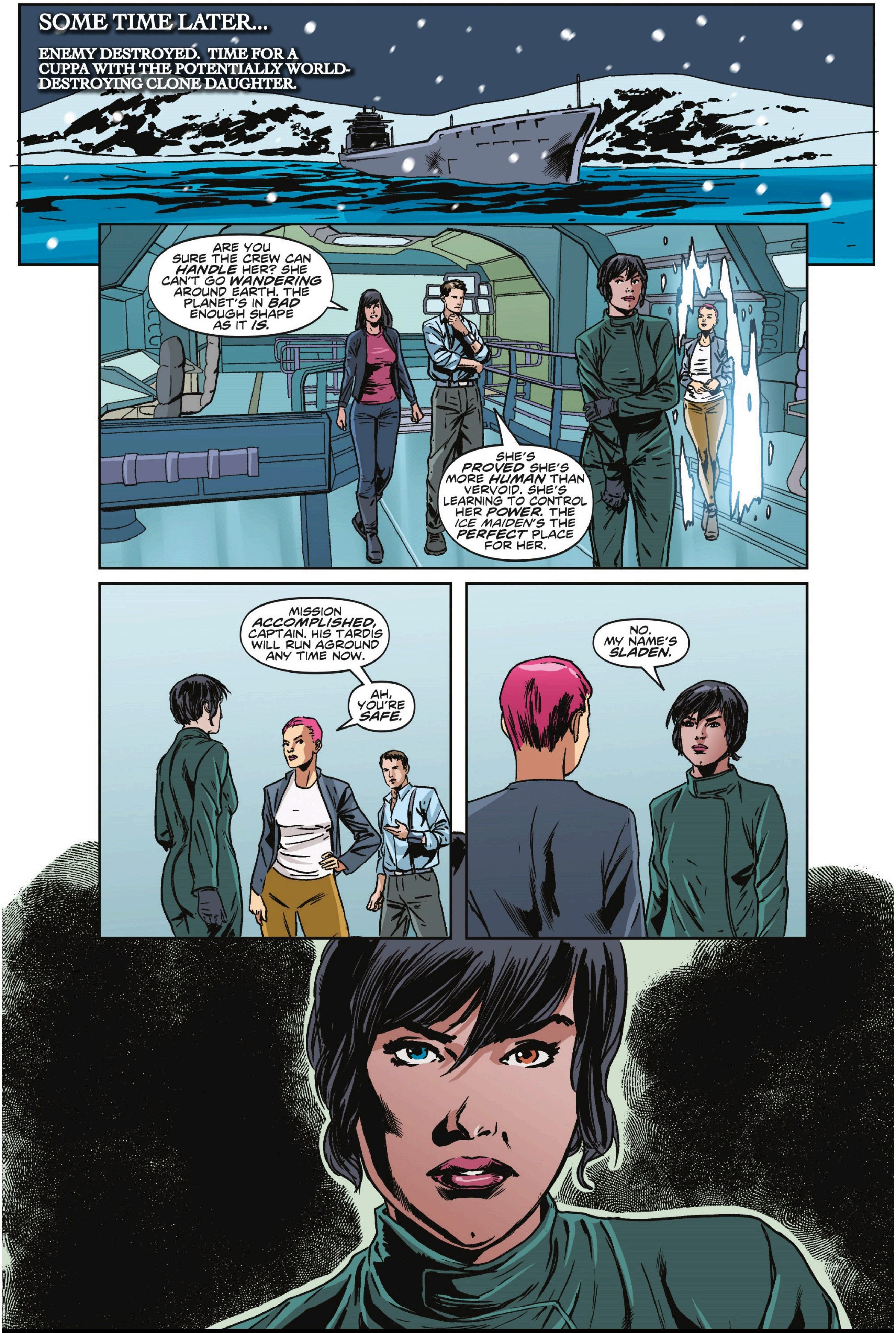

GWEN, DON'T TOUCH HER!
NO!
YOU WON'T CONTROL ME ANYMORE!


AIEEEEE!
AIEEEEE!


SOME TIME LATER...
ENEMY DESTROYED. TIME FOR A CUPPA WITH THE POTENTIALLY WORLD-DESTROYING CLONE DAUGHTER.
ARE YOU SURE THE CREW CAN *HANDLE* HER? SHE CAN'T GO *WANDERING* AROUND EARTH. THE PLANET'S IN *BAD* ENOUGH SHAPE AS IT *IS.*
SHE'S *PROVED* SHE'S MORE *HUMAN* THAN VERVOID. SHE'S LEARNING TO CONTROL HER *POWER.* THE ICE MAIDEN'S THE *PERFECT* PLACE FOR HER.
MISSION *ACCOMPLISHED,* CAPTAIN. HIS TARDIS WILL RUN AGROUND ANY TIME NOW.
AH, YOU'RE *SAFE.*
NO. MY NAME'S *SLADEN.*

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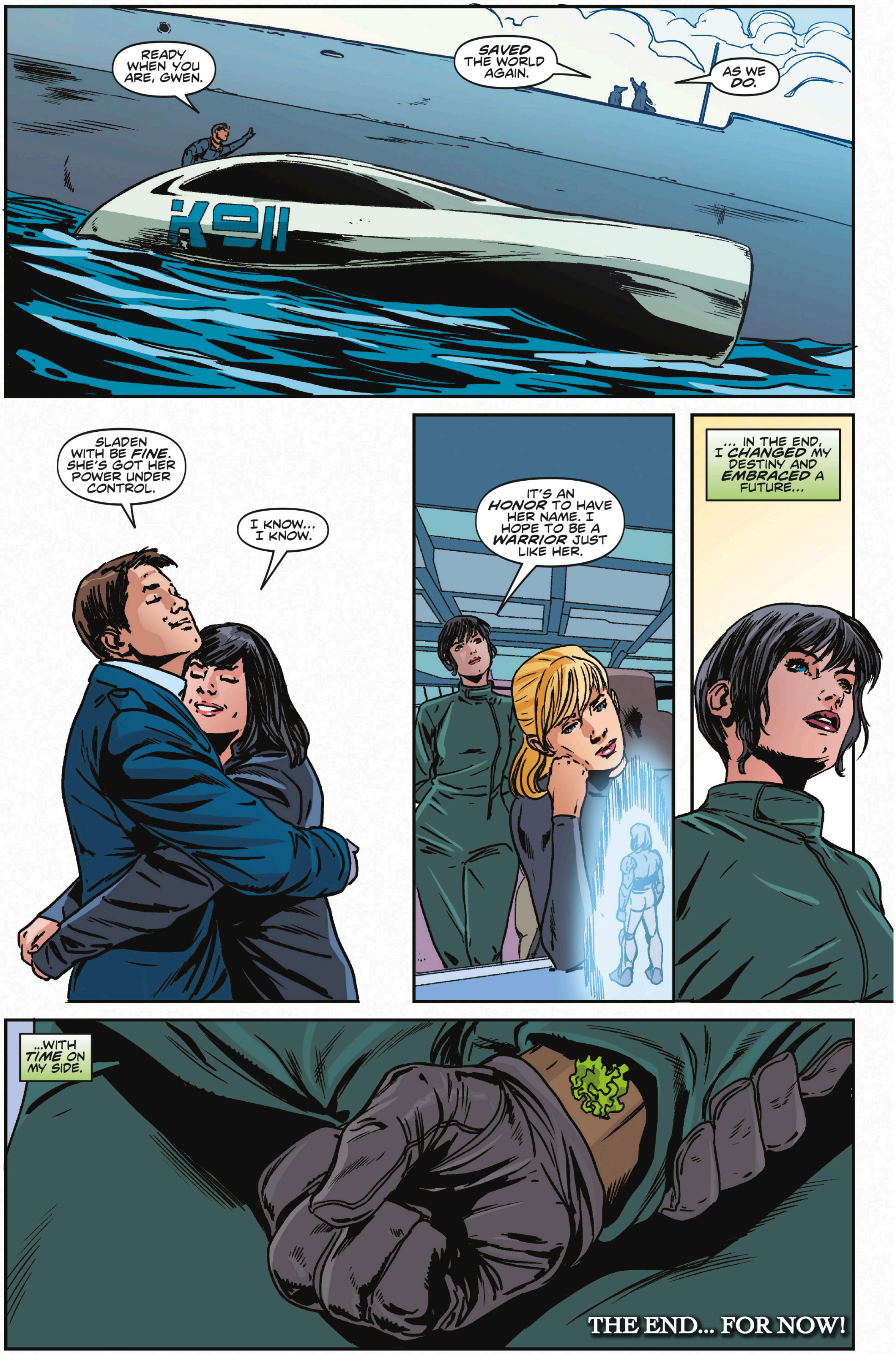
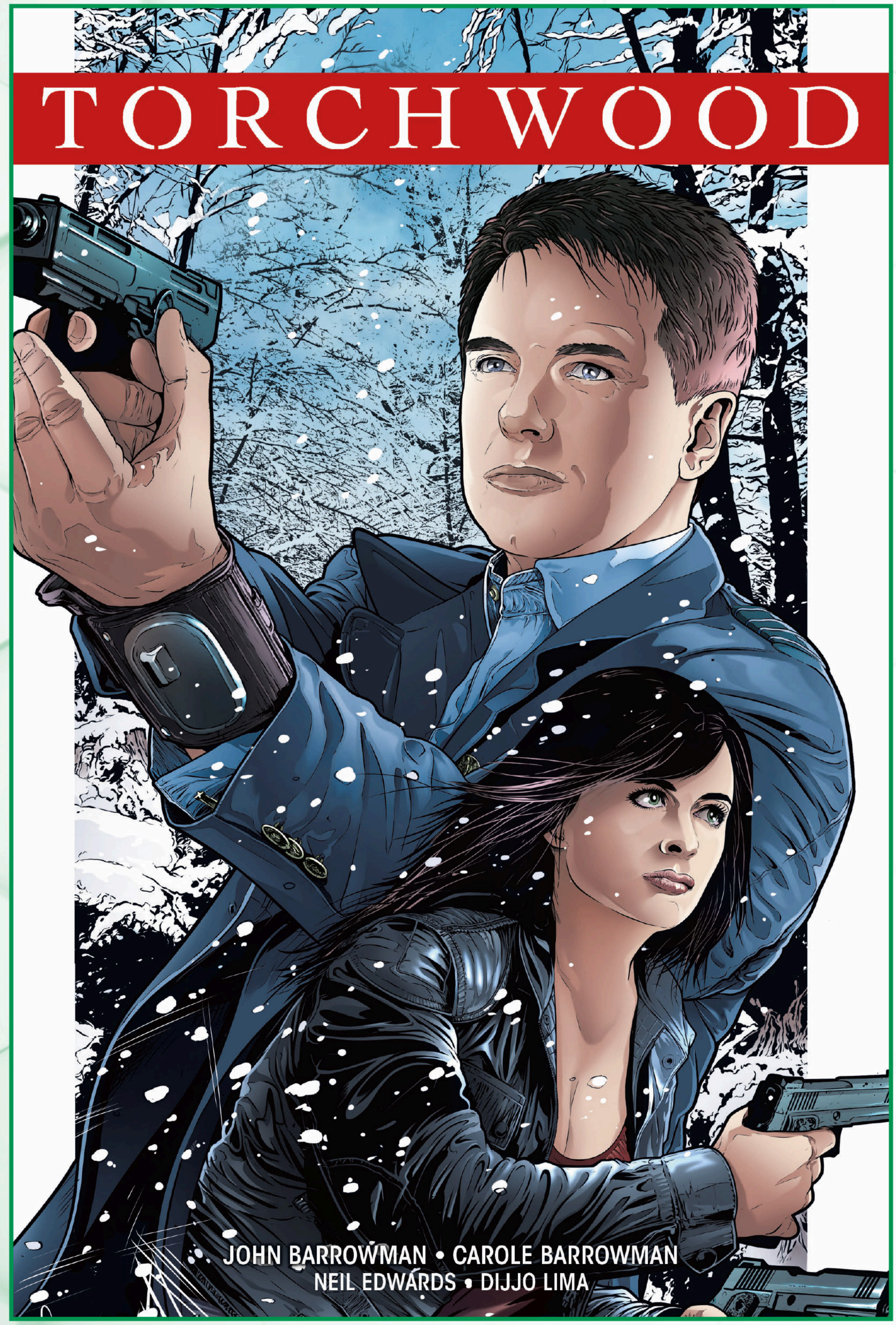

READY WHEN YOU ARE, GWEN.
SAVED THE WORLD AGAIN.
AS WE DO.
K911
SLADEN WITH BE FINE. SHE'S GOT HER POWER UNDER CONTROL.
I KNOW... I KNOW.
IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE HER NAME. I HOPE TO BE A WARRIOR JUST LIKE HER.
... IN THE END, I CHANGED MY DESTINY AND EMBRACED A FUTURE...
...WITH TIME ON MY SIDE.
THE END... FOR NOW!

COVER GALLERY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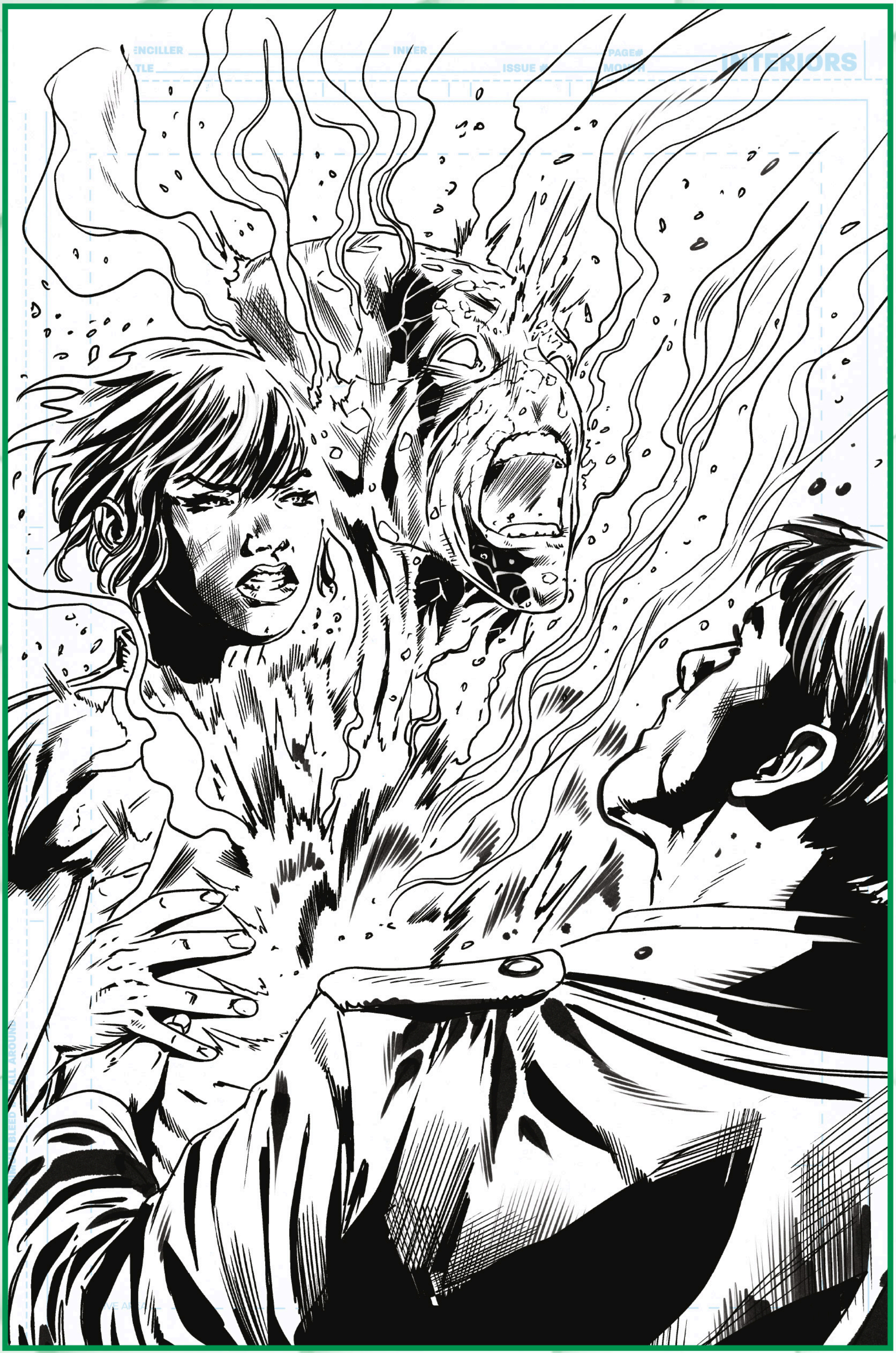
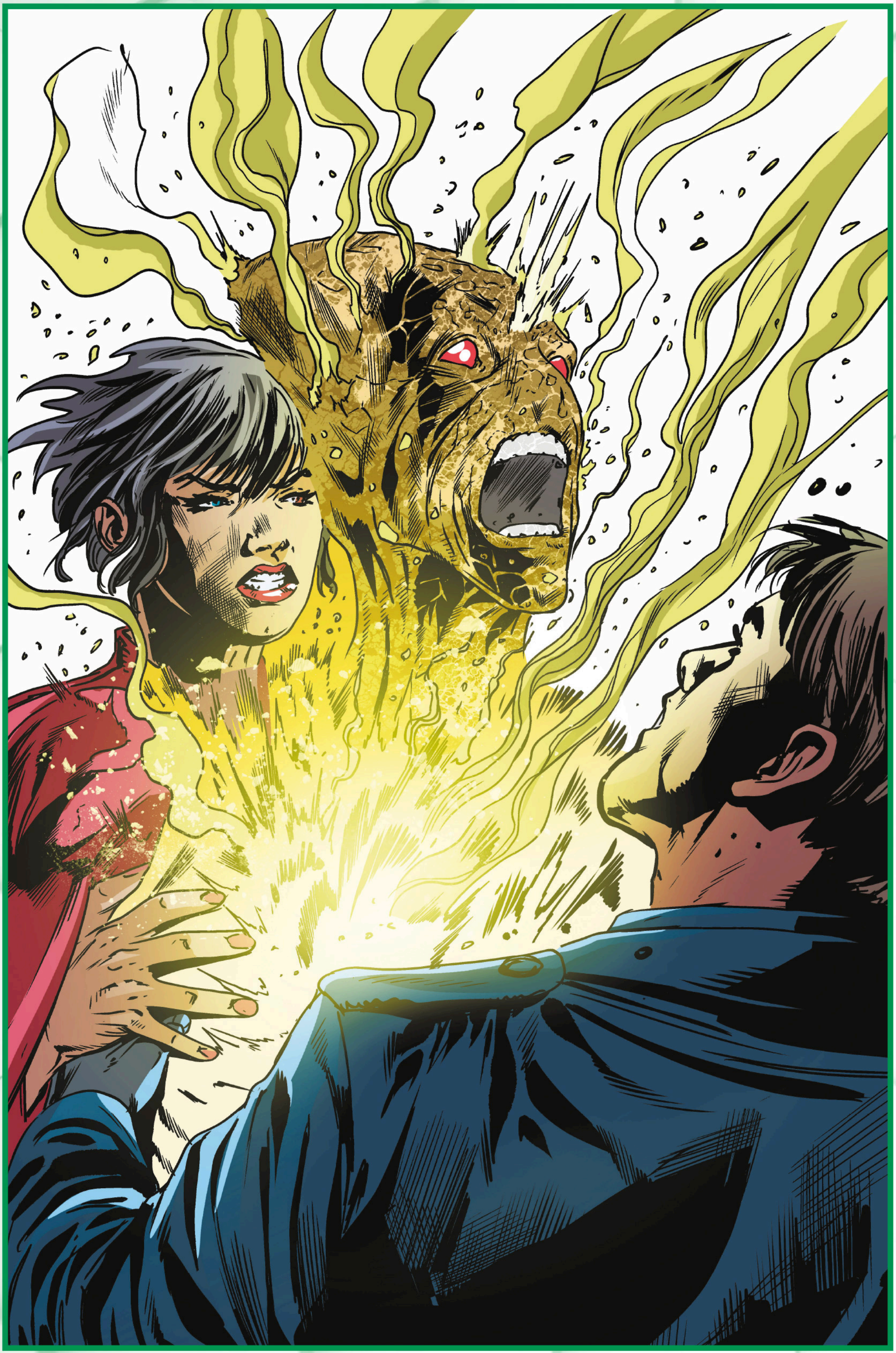
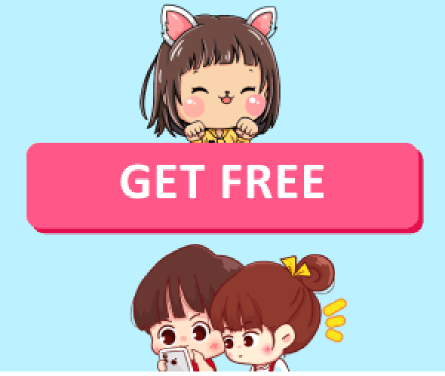


TAKE A PEEK AT HOW TORCHWOOD COMES TO LIFE – INKS BY NEIL EDWARDS

BEHIND THE SCENES!



DIJJO LIMA'S COLORS BRING NEIL EDWARDS' INKS TO LIFE.



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